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BLACK PANTHER



DIRECT EDITION

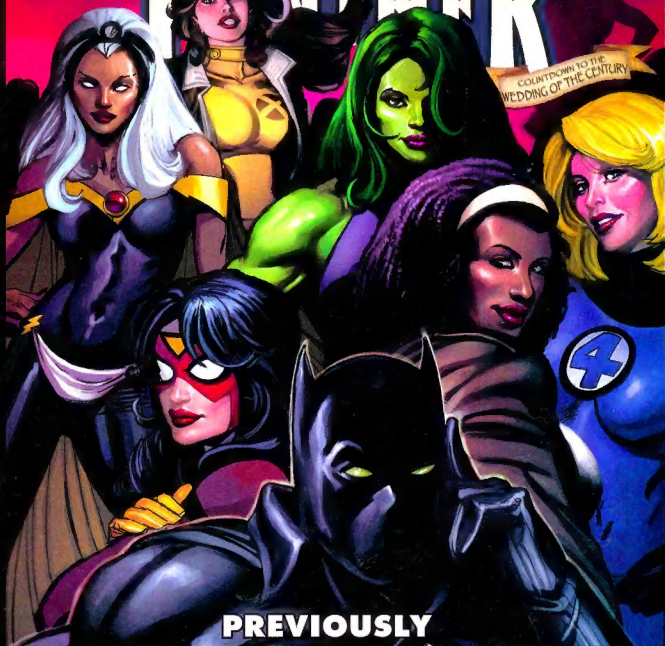
RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

HUDLIN EATON JANSON • WHITE

BLACK PANTHER



PREVIOUSLY

There are some places you just don't mess with. Wakanda is one of them. Since the dawn of time, that African warrior nation has been sending would-be conquerors home in body bags. While the rest of Africa got carved up like a Christmas turkey by the rest of the world, Wakanda's cultural evolution has gone unchecked for centuries, unfettered by the yoke of colonization. The result: A hi-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise that makes the rest of the world seem primitive by comparison.

Ruling over all this is the Black Panther.

The Black Panther is more than just the embodiment of a warrior cult that's served as Wakanda's religious, political and military head since its inception. The Black Panther is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. Anyone who'd dare to make a move on Wakanda must go through him.

Every kingdom must have its Queen, and T'Challa's mother has decided it is time for him to marry. He's made his decision, proposing to his boyhood love, Ororo Munroe (now a member of the X-Men). What will her answer be...?

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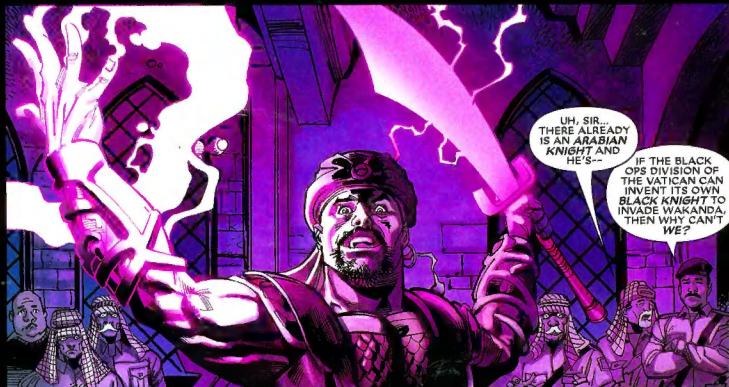


AND SO IT IS DECIDED!
BRING THE WEAPONS!

WITH THIS
MAGICAL SWORD,
THIS BLESSED ARMOR,
THIS FLYING CARPET...
YOU WILL BE THE ULTIMATE
WARRIOR AGAINST THE
SUPER-POWERED ENEMIES
OF OUR FAITH!

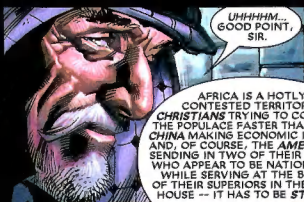
INFIDELS
BEWARE! THE
Arabian Knight
HAS RETURNED!





UH, SIR...
THERE ALREADY
IS AN ARABIAN
KNIGHT AND
HE'S--

IF THE BLACK
OPS DIVISION OF
THE VATICAN CAN
INVENT ITS OWN
BLACK KNIGHT TO
INVADE WAKANDA,
THEN WHY CAN'T
WE?



UHH-HMM...
GOOD POINT,
SIR.

AFRICA IS A HOTLY
CONTESTED TERRITORY.
CHRISTIANS TRYING TO CONVERT
THE POPULACE FASTER THAN ISLAM.
CHINA MAKING ECONOMIC INROADS.
AND, OF COURSE, THE AMERICANS,
SENDING IN TWO OF THEIR AGENTS,
WHO APPEAR TO BE NATIONALISTS
WHILE SERVING AT THE BEHEST
OF THEIR SUPERIORS IN THE WHITE
HOUSE -- IT HAS TO BE STOPPED!



BUT NOW, WE
HAVE A SYMBOL
OF OUR OWN TO
TRUMP THOSE.
SOMETHING FOR
THE CHILDREN TO
ASPIRE TO.

BUT WHEN
THE VATICAN
SENT THEIR :AHEM:
"BLACK KNIGHT" IN
TO DEFEAT THE
PANTHER, HE
WAS--



ARE YOU COMPARING
OUR HOLY WARRIOR TO
THAT BUFFOON?

N-N-NO
SIR, I WAS
JUST--

YOU WERE
JUST ABOUT TO
BLASPHEME!

I STAND
CORRECTED,
SIR.



LOCK IN
THEIR LOCATION!
PREPARE FOR A FULL
ASSAULT!

Bride of the Panther

Part Two



ORORO MUNROE, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

SAY IT AGAIN.

REGINALD
HUBLIN
WRITER

SCOT
EATON
PENCILS

KLAUS
JANSON
INKS

WHITE
AND
ISANOVE
COLORS

VC'S
GENT
LETTERS

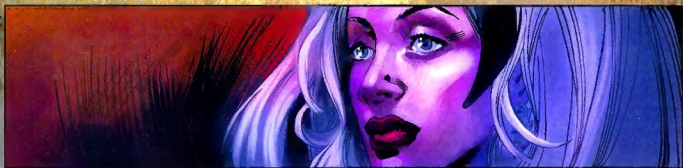
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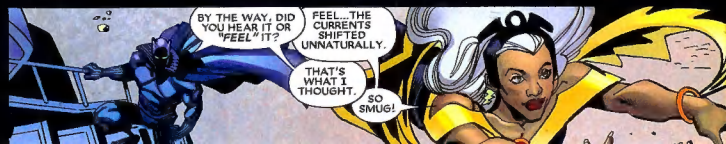
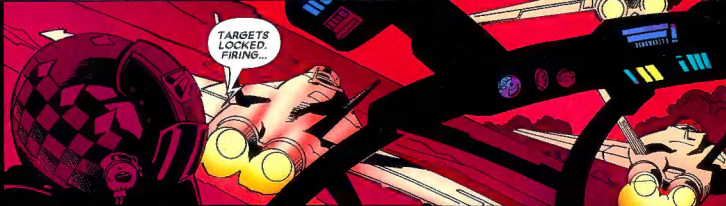
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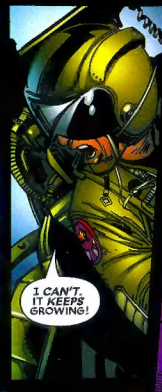


I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME. I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOU SAY IT AGAIN.



SO...
I AM SUPPOSED TO WAIT HERE UNTIL MY ARMS FALL OFF?







YOU WERE SAYING...?

I WAS SAYING--



DIE, INFIDELS!
DIE BY THE SWORD
OF THE ARABIAN
KNIGHT!

OH,
WHAT
NOW?

"ARABIAN
KNIGHT"?
THAT'S NOT
THE--

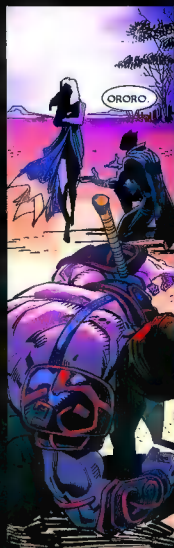
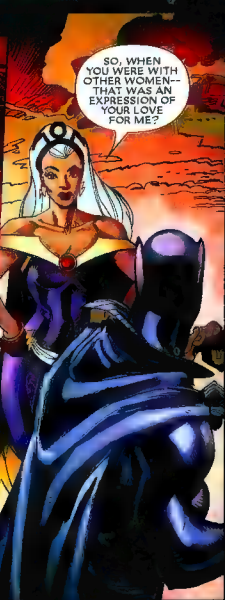
WHOEVER
HE IS, HE'S ALL
YOURS, YOUR
HIGHNESS.



HOLD ON,
THIS WON'T
TAKE LONG.

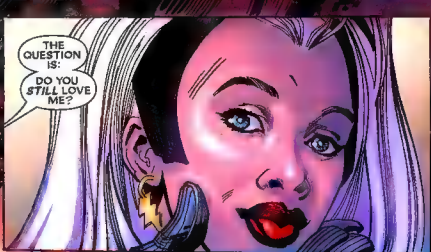
I'VE
ALREADY
WAITED TOO
LONG FOR
YOU.



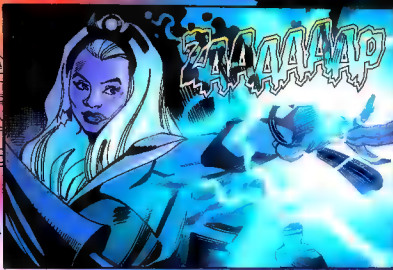




I DID WHAT
YOUNG MEN DO.
NOW I AM AN ADULT.
READY TO GIVE YOU
THE LOVE YOU
DESERVE.



THE
QUESTION
IS:
DO YOU
STILL LOVE
ME?



HMMM, I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO INTERPRET
THAT...

...BUT IF
THERE IS THE
SLIGHTEST CHANCE
THAT WE COULD
MAKE IT WORK,
THEN LET'S TRY
AGAIN.



PLEASE?



EN MINUTES LATER...

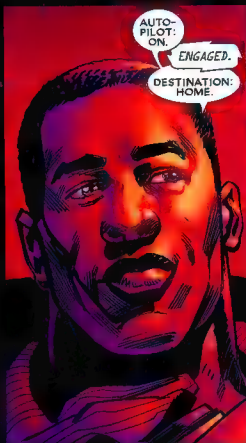
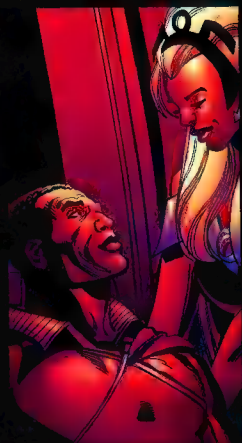
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO HAPPY. I HAVE NOT CONSENTED TO ANYTHING BEYOND SPENDING MORE TIME WITH YOU.

THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SMILE.



I KNOW THAT SMUG EXPRESSION. YOU THINK YOU'VE WON.

I PRESUME NOTHING, AND NOTHING YOU SAY WILL MAKE ME BICKER WITH YOU.



AUTO-PILOT: ON.

ENGAGED.

DESTINATION: HOME.



ENTERING WAKANDAN AIRSPACE IN 50 MINUTES.

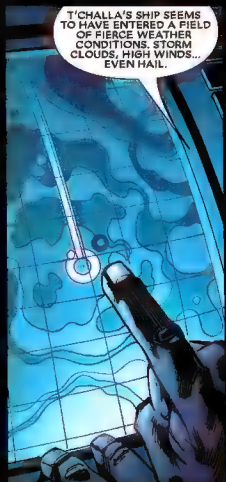
WAKANDAN CENTRAL COMMAND.
FIVE MINUTES LATER...

UNUSUAL
METEORIC
CONDITIONS,
SIR.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



T'CHALLA'S SHIP SEEMS
TO HAVE ENTERED A FIELD
OF FIERCE WEATHER
CONDITIONS. STORM
CLOUDS, HIGH WINDS...
EVEN HAIL.



WHY DOESN'T
THE SHIP JUST
FLY AROUND
IT?



IT
APPEARS...
...THEY ARE IN
THE HEART OF
THE STORM.



NAIROBI, KENYA.

SHE HAS
RETURNED!

THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION IN HER
WAKE STRETCHES FROM ONE END
OF THE CONTINENT TO THE OTHER.
THE SITUATION IS FAR WORSE THAN
IT WAS BEFORE. NOW SHE'S IN
COMPLETE COMMAND OF HER
ABILITIES.

WHERE
IS SHE
NOW?

SHE WAS
LAST SEEN
FREEING SLAVES
IN THE SUDAN AND
WRECKING AN ENTIRE
AIR FORCE WHILE
DOING IT.

AT FIRST,
SHE WAS WITH
THE X-MEN. WE
THOUGHT THEY WOULD
DO THEIR BUSINESS AND
GO, BUT NOW THEY
HAVE GONE AND SHE
HAS STAYED.

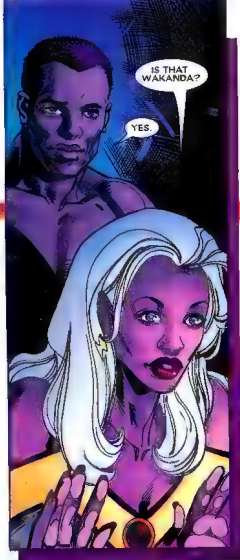
I WAS TOLD
THEY WERE GOING
TO SEND SOMEONE
AGAINST HER IF SHE
SHOWED UP THERE.
BUT THE BLACK
PANTHER MADE
QUICK WORK
OF HIM.

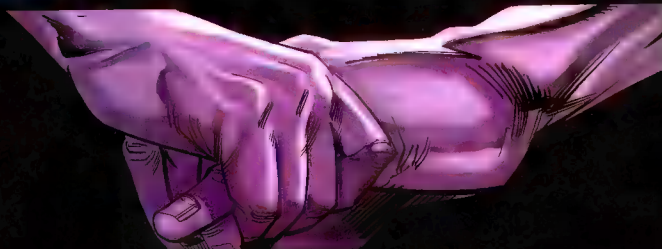
DID YOU
SAY BLACK
PANTHER?

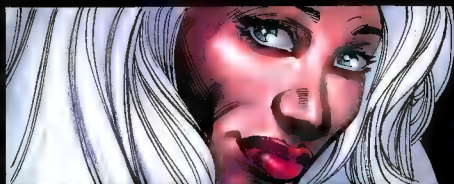
Y-Y-YES
SIR, HE WAS
ON THE
SCENE....

THIS IS
BIG. VERY
BIG. WE
NEED TO GET
READY.

THIS COULD
BE HUMANITY'S
LAST STAND!







AM I BEING
RIDICULOUS?

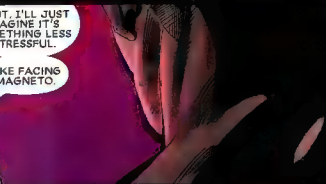


COMPLETELY.
I DON'T EVEN
RECOGNIZE
YOU.



RIGHT, I'LL JUST
IMAGINE IT'S
SOMETHING LESS
STRESSFUL.

LIKE FACING
MAGNETO



REMEMBER YOU
ARE A PRINCESS AND
A GODDESS, AND
AN X-MAN.

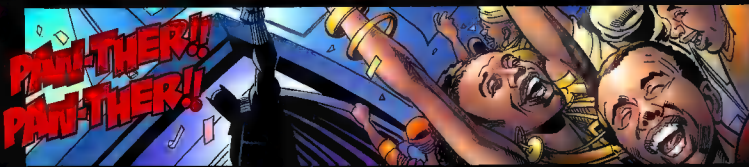


AND A WOMAN.



AND A WOMAN.







I KNOW HE HURT YOU, BUT THAT BOY NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU. IT MAY BE HARD FOR YOU TO BELIEVE, BUT I KNOW MY SON.

IT MEANS A LOT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.



--SHOULD BE MARRIED?

WAKANDA IS A WARRIOR CULTURE. IT TAKES A STRONG WOMAN TO LEAD AND BREED THESE STRONG MEN, AND HERE YOU ARE, A PRINCESS, STREET-TOUGH, A WARRIOR ON A GALACTIC SCALE. I HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR ADVENTURES CLOSELY. YOU ARE A HERO WORTHY OF MY SON.

WHEN I SENT HIM OFF TO FIND A WIFE, I PRAYED HE COULD CONVINCE YOU TO COME BACK. MY SON NEVER LETS ME DOWN.

IF WE'VE NEVER MET, WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR SON AND I--



THERE'S ONLY ONE OUTSTANDING QUESTION:

DO YOU LOVE MY SON ENOUGH TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE TO BE WITH HIM--

--FOREVER?



LOOK AT
THAT CAT IN
A TREE.



HOW WAS
MOTHER?

AMAZING.
LIKE I
IMAGINED
SHE'D BE.

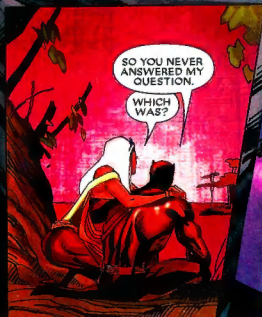
SO SHE
DIDN'T SCARE
YOU AWAY.

SHE'S TOUGH,
BUT SO AM I. WE
WOULD GET
ALONG FINE.



SO YOU NEVER
ANSWERED MY
QUESTION.

WHICH
WAS?



WILL YOU
MARRY
ME?



YES.

Next: Meet the Family

MAIL TO THE KING!

Mail to the King.

Three comics are currently grabbing my attention at the moment—**CAPTAIN AMERICA**, **ASTONISHING X-MEN**, and **BLACK PANTHER**—but it is the latter that is starting to edge out in front of the genius stakes. I am particularly referring to the recent 4-part story, "Two the Hard Way," which I have just read for the third time. Yes, it's that good! I honestly can't remember in 40 years of comic reading laughing out loud so much. For example, in issue 11 an irate neighbor hangs out of his window and berates Luke Cage, asking him to watch where he's throwing the ninjas. Brilliant!

The choice of guests in this story-arc was also outstanding, as was the depiction of their different personality traits. For example, Luke Cage as streetwise hero, Blade as proud loner, Brother Voodoo as pretty well off the planet, etc. All were expertly written and true to character. But it was the consistent laughs provided by Luke Cage that really hit the mark for me.

In my opinion, T'Challa needs a witty foil like Luke to bring out the best in him. Priest also recognized this fact when he gave the Panther a great comedic foil in Everett K. Ross. In light of this, would you consider teaming up the Black Panther with Luke Cage in the great tradition of Captain America and the Falcon? Perhaps this might be done in a separate ongoing monthly series, or even in a 12-issue limited series. Then you could also throw their loved ones, Ororo and Jessica, into the mix and create comic nirvana. Whatever your future choices, please keep raising your game as you seem to be doing.

Thanks for the class act.

Alister Hooke
Scotland

Sounds like another vote for a CAGE series!

Greetings,

BLACK PANTHER is one of the best comics out there. Issue #14 tied together history, actual fact and ended all these months of rumors and wedding speculations. I enjoyed the tie-in of Malcolm X with Storm's father. Scott Eaton's artwork is a little rough at times; however, this is not criticism but praise. It helps tell the story. On page 9, his depiction of the civil rights leader is dead-on! I have that photo of Malcolm X looking through the window on my wall and compared it to the comic. Tell Scott he has my utmost respect from a fellow artist. Even the way Luke and T'Challa are giving "props" on the bottom of page 7 is true to brothers everywhere.

I have been wanting Storm and the Black Panther to get together for years. The old **EARTH X** series with the two of them together was just a tease. I am definitely feeling the whole love story and them getting married has been DECADES long overdue. Congratulations for bringing together two of Marvel's premier Black characters.

I have Storm tattooed on my arm and now I will put the Black Panther on the other. Are you going to rename the book **The Black Panthers**? The House of Wakanda? **Black Panther & Storm**? Is Wolverine the "ring bearer" and who will be the "maid of honor"? I need wedding invitations! I cannot wait for Civil War.

Thanks for making dreams come true.

Wayne X
Atlanta, GA

Could you possibly fit a '70s character into the great lineup of heroes that are currently being seen in **BLACK PANTHER**? (Luke Cage, Falcon, Brother Voodoo, etc.?) His name is "Deathlok"—one of the most understated and misused African-

American characters.

Love the direction that Hudlin is taking. Take care and good luck.

Phillip Cargill
via internet

You have some BIG Deathlok fans on BLACK PANTHER. P. I'm sure you caught our little shout-out to Luther Manning in #5's cyborg soldiers.

YOOOOO!

I just read **BLACK PANTHER** #14 and this is some great stuff. This, without a doubt, is Hudlin's best issue yet! I loved the conversation between Panther and Cage. It's good to see guys love each other as friends.

You don't see a lot of love between brothers anymore, and Cage and Panther getting along like that, Cage going back to his girlfriend and daughter—**BRILLANT!**

It's rare for me that a comic makes me want to read another comic that ties into it, but I had to pick up **STORM** #2, and I must say that **STORM** really left me wanting more! I can't wait for this wedding! So it better happen—no tricks, please.

I also loved seeing the conversation between Panther and his father. It lets you see why T'Challa would be so pained over not having his father around to guide him. The only thing I ask is that you give this wedding the continued push it deserves. This is big for Marvel and it shouldn't just get lost in all the other big event Marvel has planned. Panther is a character that deserves a push.

Please don't stop after the wedding. Keep Panther alive!

Christopher Currie
via internet

Hey,

I'm a big fan of Marvel and DC comics. I read 15-20 comics a month. I especially love **BLACK PANTHER**! He's AWESOME! In the last issue I got he kicked vampire butt with Blade.

Caleb, Age 10
Menifee, CA

That seals it. Nothin' pleases quite like a well-kicked vampire! We're very happy to have you as a reader each and every month, Caleb. I hope all this girly marriage stuff isn't putting you off. We promise plenty of action and excitement. I mean, it wouldn't be a Marvel wedding without a little action, no?

Mail to the King.

I'm a 4th year sociology student (I study at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, also known as U.N.M.S.M., first of America, founded in 1551) and last year, in my thesis workshop class, I wrote a thesis project about **BLACK PANTHER**.

Of course the first chapter, as it is normally intended to be, was a general introduction. So I wrote about the history of comics in the 20th century, about mainstream comics as a part of the modern cultural industry, about Marvel's "Silver Age" and Stan Lee's creative revolution, and finally, about the comic industry nowadays and comics as a lifestyle choice for some of us.

The second chapter was strictly about Hudlin's current run on **BLACK PANTHER** (issues #1-9). I began with a small biography of both Reginald Hudlin and the Black Panther character, then I made an analysis of the mentioned comic on its different dimensions: Drama/Comedy with

a strong political content and constant real-world allusions, writing style and visual language, analysis of the main and secondary characters and even of the letter column.

Well, I obtained a 16 (over 20, that's gotta be a B+ or something) and a personal congratulation by my Professor. Yeah, that's all folks, a real life story. Let me send warm greetings to my Prof. Guillermo Nugent (Peruvian sociologist, who has taught at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and is currently teaching in Baltimore, I don't remember the exact name of the university), and to my best friend and classmate Paolo "Placebo" Pachas, who is also an excellent underground comic writer/penciller.

Truly yours,

A South American Marvelite,
Guido Cuadros F.A.
Lima, Peru

And in the contest department: You all remember the "Strangest Reading Experience Contest," yeah? You guys must be bashful or something because not one of you read BLACK PANTHER while sitting upside-down in the shower. It opens the pores, I've been told. By someone.

Guido takes his place as the winner of our most recent **BLACK PANTHER** contest, and not just because yer humble editor, apparently now the subject of critical study (that might explain why it was a 16 out of 20 instead of 20 out of 20), graduated from B.G.S.U. Guido hit us with a one-two punch, not only reading the series, but penning critical work on it, as well. Tell 'em I said "Hi!" back in B.G., and send us an excerpt!

—Cory

NEXT ISSUE:



STORM #3: 26 Years in the Making!
Enter: "The Bull"
On-Sale Now!



PANTHER #16: Meet the family!

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